



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

6th and 7th GUILTY PLEAS ENTERED IN SALEM MARIJUANA RING CASE

Re: United States v. Jason Messina and James Glover, Sr.

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, and Salem Police Chief Paul Donovan announced that **Jason J. MESSINA**, date of birth of June 28, 1980, of Methuen, Massachusetts, and **James GLOVER, Sr.**, date of birth of March 25, 1959, of Lawrence, Massachusetts were convicted today on federal marijuana distribution charges.

Messina entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute over 1000 kilograms of marijuana. Messina entered a guilty plea before Judge McAuliffe to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Both will be sentenced by Judge McAuliffe on January 20, 2004 in U.S. District Court in Concord. Messina faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Glover faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years.

Both were arrested in November, 2003 along with six others as part of a sting operation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Northern New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area ("New England HIDTA") Task Force and the Salem Police Department. A Criminal Complaint against these individuals, issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead on January 22, 2003, alleged that they participated in a conspiracy to distribute over 100 kilos of marijuana in southeastern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts between January, 2000 and November, 2002.

Messina and Glover are the sixth and seventh of the eight to enter a guilty plea. Co-defendants **James SPITALERE** and **Jose L. MADERA**, of Methuen, Massachusetts, **Sean**

BOYD and **James CLARK**, of Haverhill, Massachusetts and **Arthur SOBERON**, of Salem, New Hampshire have already entered guilty pleas to marijuana trafficking charges.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, “This multi-defendant case involving interstate marijuana trafficking is a prime example of the effectiveness of New England HIDTA, and the Northern New England HIDTA Task Force. I will continue to commit federal resources to these and other cooperative efforts between federal and local law enforcement agencies.”

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDEF”).